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Too Attractive To Pass Up

Industry Lured CIA Boss

By JIM STIFF

NORFOLK — William F. Ra-

born Jr., who resigned last Saturday as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said he left the agency because "the lure of industry" was too attractive to pass up.

The retired vice admiral, addressing the 39th graduation class of officers at the Armed Forces Staff College, did not say which industry he would be joining.

Before his appointment as director of the CIA 14 months ago, Raborn was a vice president in charge of management for the Aerojet-General Corp., a subsidiary of General Tire and Rubber Co., in El Monte, Calif.

Raborn has announced that he plans to return to California.

Raborn's announced intention



RABORN

to return to industry came at the beginning of his talk at the Staff college when he departed from his text.

He was greeted by thunderous

applause when introduced to the graduating class.

"By the warm applause," Raborn said with a smile, "I can see I've been in the wrong place the last 14 months. You hardly get any of these up in Washington." Raborn added that he did not know he would be ending his career with the CIA "so soon."

"The lure of industry was such that I couldn't pass it up. I went there with the thought I could go when I wanted to."

The announcement of Raborn's resignation was made last Saturday at a press conference by President Johnson, who sandwiched it between a couple of routine announcements.

The President named Richard Helms, deputy director of CIA, to succeed Raborn. Helms' nomination is still awaiting Senate

approval which means Raborn is technically still the director.

Raborn said the fact he is leaving the government service does not affect the high esteem he holds for President Johnson.

"I am proud to have gone out and campaigned for him and to have voted for him."

As to the status of the CIA as he leaves it, Raborn said it is "now in a present state of excellence."

"I doubt there's any department or agency in the world that can match it," he added.

He said the agency is now engaged in a long-range planning scheme which will encompass 15 years. He pointed out that planning ahead is an important function that not enough people are aware of.